

Appl. No. 10/004,439
Response Dated October 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 22, 2005

REMARKS

Specification

The Examiner objected to the Specification for failing to include a Brief Summary of the Invention. 37 C.F.R. §1.73 recites that “[a] brief summary of the invention . . . should precede the detailed description.” (emphasis added). The applicants respectfully assert that “should” is permissive and does not render the Brief Summary of the Invention mandatory for a complete specification. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully affirms that it was improper for the Examiner to object to the Specification and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Summary

Claims 1, 3-11, 13, 14, and 16-18 stand in this application. Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 11, 14, 16, and 18 have been amended. Claims 2, 12, and 15 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. The applicant respectfully requests prompt allowance of the standing claims.

Allowable Claims

The applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 2, 3, 7, 12, and 15-18 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, 11, and 14 to include at least a patentable element as recognized by the Examiner in the above listed allowable dependent claims. Accordingly, the applicant asserts that

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independent claims 1, 8, 11, and 14 are allowable along with all standing claims depending therefrom.

The applicant further submits that the amendments to claims 6 and 9 merely clarify, either expressly or impliedly, what was already present in the claims. Accordingly, the applicant submits that the amendments to claims 6 and 9 are not narrowing amendments and are not being made for reasons substantially related to patentability.

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CONCLUSION

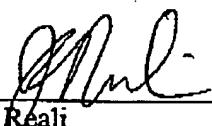
For at least the foregoing reasons, the applicant submits that he has overcome the Examiner's rejections and that he has the right to claim the invention as set forth in the listed claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 360-696-8602 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The applicant believes that claims 1, 3-11, 13, 14, and 16-18 are in allowable form. Accordingly, the applicant earnestly solicits a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

KACVINSKY LLC



Jon C. Reali
Reg. No. 54,391
Under 37 C.F.R. §1.34(a)

4500 Brooktree Road, Suite 102
Wexford, PA 15090
(724) 933-9390

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Dated